



STUDENT ASSESSMENT NEWS

November 13, 2017

[Archived Student Assessment News](#)

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Connecticut SAT School Day Updates

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On November 6, 2017, a webinar was presented regarding updates to the 2018 administration of the Connecticut SAT School Day and accommodations for special populations. [Slides from this webinar](#) are available. A recorded version of this webinar will be posted to our [Web site](#) shortly. Highlights of the webinar included:

- English learners who receive 50% extended time on the Connecticut SAT School Day will now receive a college reportable score.
- The deadline to enter accommodations into Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) for the Connecticut SAT School Day is January 30, 2018.
- Admission tickets are not being used for the 2018 administration.
- Schools will use pre-id labels for student answer sheets.
- Schools will receive their answer sheets earlier than test books to allow time for schools to schedule a pre-administration session for students to complete demographics and enter four free score sends.

Connecticut SAT School Day ELA and Mathematics Workshop

The College Board, in conjunction with the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE), will be providing a workshop on November 27, 2017 at CREC, in Hartford, in the area of English language arts (ELA) and mathematics. Each school (including Approved Private Special Education Programs) can register **two staff members** to participate in a half-day workshop. [Register for Math](#) (10 a.m.-12 p.m.) **OR** [Register for ELA](#) (12:30-2:30 p.m.). Additional sessions are being planned.



CMT/CAPT 2016-17 Science Results on EdSight

Results from the 2016-17 CMT/CAPT Science are available on [EdSight](#) and [EdSight Secure](#). The results include Grades 5, 8 and 10 and are available by state, district and school.



Writing Portfolio Guides for the Assessment of Writing in Grades K-2

A November 2, 2017, [letter](#) from Ajit Gopalakrishnan to Superintendents of Schools announced the availability of optional writing resources available to schools for students in Grades K-2. Links to all of the resources are available in the [letter](#).



Connecticut Alternate Assessment



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Science Waiver Approved, Revised Summative Calendar and NGSS Field Test

A notification regarding the [Science Waiver Approval and Revised Summative Calendar](#) was sent to Superintendents from Commissioner Wentzell on October 19, 2017. Please consider the following when planning for the spring 2018 Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Field Test.

- This field test will be delivered using the American Institutes for Research (AIR) Test Delivery System. (This is the same system used to deliver the Smarter Balanced test.) Student accounts will also be managed through AIR's Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE) for this field test.
- A [practice test](#) with examples of the new NGSS-aligned assessment items is available at the elementary-, middle- and high-School levels. Students in Grades 5, 8 and 11 may access the appropriate practice test prior to the administration of the NGSS Field Test in the spring.

Neither testing times, nor the number of sessions has been finalized for the NGSS Field Test.

Although, there will be a *recommended* time allotment for this field test, like Smarter Balanced, students will be allowed to use as much time as needed. Nobody will need to enter an accommodation or designated support for time extensions, because time extension is considered to be a non-embedded Universal Tool.

However, in the case of the NGSS Field Test, extended time will only be allowed on the *same school day* that the test was started. If a student goes home, then extended time will not be allowed on any subsequent day. While students may take breaks as needed, the test session must be completed on the same day it was started.

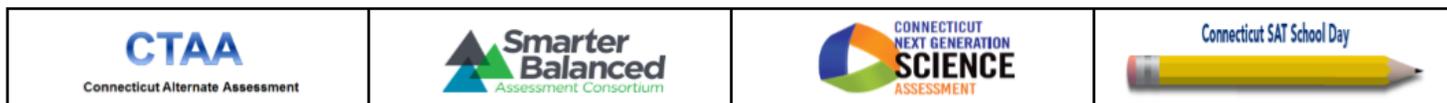
In addition to the Standard NGSS Field Test, there will also be a new Alternate NGSS Field Test this spring. As a result, teachers should not be administering the CMT/CAPT Skills Checklist Science this school year. Teachers who are accessing alternate-assessment training now (or who were trained in 2015-16 or 2016-17) will be allowed to administer the new alternate assessment in the spring. Page 9 of the individualized education program (IEP) will not need to be altered if the Alternate Science was previously selected for students in Grades 5, 8 or 11.

Desmos Calculator on Smarter Balanced Assessments

During 2018 spring testing, the Desmos calculators will be embedded in the online tests that require calculators. Broadly speaking, this includes the upper level, Smarter Balanced tests in mathematics, and also the NGSS field test in science. The Desmos calculators come in three versions. There is the basic Desmos *four-function calculator*, the Desmos *scientific calculator*, as well as the Desmos *graphing calculator*. Student access to the calculators is based on grade, subject and item being assessed. For the Smarter Balanced Mathematics Test, Grade 6 students will have access to the four-function calculator, while Grade 7 and 8 students will be using the scientific calculator.

The NGSS Science Field Test will be administered this year at Grades 5, 8, and 11. For the science field test; Grade 5 students will use the four-function calculator, Grade 8 students will use the scientific calculator, and Grade 11 students will use the graphing calculator.

The scientific and graphing Desmos Calculators that appear on the Connecticut Statewide Assessments differ somewhat from the freely available Desmos calculators that anyone can find online. For a full list of differences, please see the [Desmos Testing](#) page. General information about the calculators can be found at www.Desmos.com. However, students can practice with the test version of these higher-level calculators at: [Grade 6 Smarter Balanced Mathematics Calculator](#) or [Grades 7-8 Smarter Balanced Mathematics Calculator](#). Please see this [Desmos Video](#) for more information on these calculators.



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Special Populations Updates

English Learner Assessment Coordinator Training

English Learner Assessment Coordinators (ELACs) will be notified by e-mail about registration for live half-day trainings for the Online LAS Links Form C to be held December 13, 14, and 15, 2017. This live training is intended for **only** the ELAC and **one** other individual of their choice. Additional online training will be available mid-December for district staff. More information regarding this training will be coming very soon.

LAS LINKS Online Practice Test

The LAS Links Online Practice Test is available from Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) to LAS Links participants. The LAS Links Online Practice Test is designed to provide students an opportunity to:

- familiarize themselves with the look and feel of an online assessment;
- access a sample testing experience and the appearance of the test items on the computer/device prior to taking the assessment;
- experience one-to-two sample items in each of the four domains of Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing;
- explore the navigation, tools and item formats of the assessment; and
- ask questions prior to the test.

The practice test takes approximately 15 minutes to administer. There will be three ways to access the practice test:

1. Via Chrome URL: <https://wbte.drccedirect.com/LL/portals/II>.
2. From the LAS Links INSIGHT Portal.
3. Launch from the INSIGHT testing application.

The LAS Links Online Practice Test is an open/public URL:

- no test ticket is required;
- no login credentials need to be assigned—the credentials to login to the practice test are provided right on the log-in screen;
- while practice tests are available in English and Spanish, please ensure students access the English Form C;
- provided in the following grade spans: K-1, 2-3, 4-5, and 6-12. **Note:** the Online LAS Links live test grade spans are: K, 1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-8, 9-12.

2017-18 CSDE Usability, Accessibility and Accommodations Training and 2017-18 CSDE Alternate Assessment System Training

District Administrators were e-mailed a letter regarding the [2017-18 CSDE Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Training, and 2017-18 CSDE Alternate Assessment System Training](#). Like last year, both trainings are available as an online or live in-person option. Please see the letter for more information.

Want to find recent announcements regarding Connecticut’s assessments? Please visit the CSDE’s [Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal](#). You will find information about each assessment as well as technology resources and information for students and families.



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Special Populations Updates

Training Opportunity: Alternate Assessment Counts!

In response to new federal guidance, the CSDE is conducting multi-session trainings with regard to the testing of students with significant cognitive disabilities. The training sessions will provide information on the proper selection of these students as well as the requirements of increased monitoring during testing.

[Register for Session 1 in person: School-level leaders, Principals, Planning and Placement Team \(PPT\) Chairs](#)

[Register for Session 2 in person: District Administrator for testing, Special Education Directors, English Learner Coordinators, Department Leaders.](#) (For consistency and for federal accountability purposes, attendees for the *Alternate Assessment Counts! Session 2* **must have had** an individual from their school (or district, if applicable) participate in *Alternate Assessment Counts! Session 1* training.)

SAVE THE DATE:

Workshops for District Administrators regarding the 2018 Smarter Balanced Assessment, Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Science, and Connecticut Alternate Assessment (CTAA) will be held the week of January 15, 2018. Connecticut SAT School Day workshops for Test Center Supervisors will be held on February 13 and 14, 2018. More details will follow.

Assessment Calendar

2017–18 Summative Assessment Calendar			
Content Area(s)	Assessment	Grade(s)	Testing Window
English Language Proficiency: Speaking, Listening, Reading, and Writing	LAS-Links	K–12	January 3–March 9, 2018
English Language Arts & Mathematics	Connecticut Smarter Balanced	3–8	March 26–May 25, 2018
	Connecticut SAT School Day	11	<i>Primary Test Date:</i> March 21, 2018 <i>Makeup Dates:</i> April 24 and 25, 2018
	Connecticut Alternate Assessment	3–8 and 11	March 26–May 25, 2018
Science	Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Assessment Field Test	5, 8 and 11	March 26–May 25, 2018 (Grade 11) April 30–May 25, 2018 (Grades 5 and 8)
	NGSS Alternate Assessment Field Test	5, 8 and 11	April 30–May 25, 2018 (Grades 5, 8, and 11)

[Register for email updates](#)

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